

LARSON ATTENDS DEDICATION OF PORTLAND QUARRIES AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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LANDMARKPORTLAND—U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) today attended a ceremony to dedicate the Portland Brownstone Quarries as a National Historic Landmark, where a bronze plaque marking the site was unveiled this afternoon. In May, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, designated the Portland Brownstone Quarries as a National Historic Landmark.

"The Portland Brownstone Quarries have given so much to this country, both architecturally and geologically, so it is only fitting that they be honored for their place in America's history," said Larson. "It is truly an honor to be here today and see this historic site in the First District receive the recognition that it deserves. My great-grandfather, Lars Larson, an immigrant from Sweden, was employed here when he arrived in this country. The quarry made it possible for him and many others to pursue their dream of living in America. We must never forget that Connecticut is a state rich in history and culture and we must continue to ensure that it is preserved and recognized."

Earlier this year, Larson wrote a letter to the National Historic Landmarks Survey at the National Park Service to urge support for this designation for the Portland Brownstone Quarries. And in April, he toured the quarries with local officials.

Portland First Selectman Edward Kalinowski stated, "I would like to thank Congressman Larson for his support in helping us obtain this historic landmark designation. Both of our families share a history here, and I thank him for sharing his with us today. It is my hope that the Quarry will continue to see the same success in the future that it has recently. What a great day this is for Portland, to have our town be nationally recognized."

While the National Register contains more than 71,000 historic sites, only 2,310, or roughly 3 percent, have been selected for landmark designation.

The Portland Brownstone Quarries were the main source of the distinctive reddish-brown sandstone called "brownstone," which was used so extensively in building construction during the latter half of the nineteenth century that this period has become known as the "Brownstone Era."

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